

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 EUR-12 SAM-01 SAB-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SR-02 ORM-01 AID-05

/086 W

----- 025302

R 241140Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1646

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAIRO 0886

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PINS, MOPS, IS, LE, EG

SUBJECT: LEBANESE BORDER SITUATION

1. AS MIGHT BE EXPECTED, EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS ARE AWARE OF ACUTE DANGER TO LEBANON CREATED BY RECENT BORDER CLASHES IN THE SOUTH, BUT HAVE RESTRAINED THEIR PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON THE MATTER IN ORDER TO TRY TO BE OF HELP TO GOL IN STAVING OFF UNWANTED OFFERS OF SUPPORTIVE ARAB TROOPS.

2. SADAT, FOR EXAMPLE, HAS PUBLICLY REGISTERED HIS CONCERN ABOUT WHAT HE HAS TERMED "REPEATED ISRAELI AGGRESSIONS" BUT HAS CAREFULLY CHOSEN HIS WORDS SO AS TO REGISTER THIS CONCERN IN MANNER ACCEPTABLE TO GOL. THUS, JOINT SAUDI-EGYPTIAN COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AFTER FAISAL'S ASWAN VISIT JAN 20 EXPRESSED "EXTREME CONCERN" OVER CONTINUED ISRAELI ATTACKS.

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3. IN HIS BAYRAQ INTERVIEW JAN 9, SADAT PROVIDED DEFINITIVE

GOE VIEW OF THIS COMPLICATED ISSUE:

" WE WOULD BE UNFAIR TO LEBANON IF WE WERE TO LEAVE IT FACING THE REPEATED AGGRESSIONS ALONE. WE, AS EGYPT, ARE PERFORMING THE ROLE WE AGREED UPON. WE ARE CARRYING OUT OUR SHARE. BUT THE MATTER NECESSITATES A GENERAL ARAB STAND FOR THE SAKE OF LEBANON. I BELIEVE THAT ARAB NATION NOW HAS POTENTIAL TO GIVE SUPPORT AND PROTECTION TO LEBANON WITHOUT ANYONE EXPLOITING THE EXCUSE OF THE ENTRY OF ARAB FORCES INTO LEBANON, AND ESPECIALLY SINCE WE HAVE THE TECHNOLOGY WITH WHICH WE FOUGHT THE 1973 WAR. BUT THERE IS TOO MUCH TALK AND NO ACTION."

EILTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, GROUND FORCES, POLITICAL SITUATION, BORDER INCIDENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CAIRO00886
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750027-0565
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750124/aaaaauvt.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 AUG 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <01 DEC 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEBANESE BORDER SITUATION
TAGS: PINS, MOPS, IS, LE, EG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006